

Application No. 10/722,326

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 33 are pending in the application. The claims have been subjected to a restriction requirement and the Examiner has stated that restriction is required to one of the following inventions:

I. Claims 1 to 7 and 12 to 31, drawn to a process for preparing a branched polyarylene ether polymer, classified in class 528, subclass 125.

II. Claims 8 to 11, drawn to a polymer composition, classified in class 528, subclass 86.

III. Claim 32, drawn to another process for preparing a branched polyarylene ether polymer, classified in class 528, subclass 102.

IV. Claim 33, drawn to another process for preparing a branched polyarylene ether polymer, classified in class 528, subclass 503.

The Examiner has stated that Inventions I and II are related as process of making and product made. Applicant has amended the Group II claims so that the term "polymer" is changed to "process", thereby bringing all of the Group II claims into Group I. Applicants believe that this amendment eliminates any possible grounds for this particular restriction requirement.

The Examiner has also stated that Inventions I and III or IV are unrelated, that inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and that they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects, and

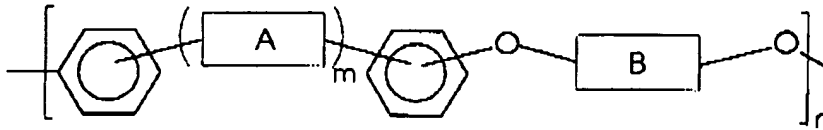
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that in the instant case the different inventions are based on different conditions to form different products.

Applicant disagrees with this position. As stated in the instant specification at, for example, page 114 and following pages, when the optional monophenolic endcapping component is present in the reaction mixture, generally the reaction mixture also contains one or more dihalide monomers of the indicated formulae. This disclosure supports claim 32 as a specific embodiment of the reaction of claim 1. In addition, as recited in the instant specification at, for example, page 131, a dihalogenated monomer of the indicated formulae can also be added to the reaction mixture even in the absence of a monophenolic endcapping compound if it is desired to terminate the branched polymers with groups other than phenolic groups or those corresponding to the monophenolic endcapping compound. This disclosure supports claim 32 as another specific embodiment of the reaction of claim 1. Further disclosure on these specific embodiments is in the specification at, for example, pages 142-143, bridging paragraph. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground for restriction.

The Examiner has also made an election of species requirement between the two formulae of component (iii) in claims 1, 32, and 33. Applicant is of the position that both formulae can be examined together without undue burden. In the event that the Examiner persists with this election of species requirement, however, Applicant elects compounds of the formula

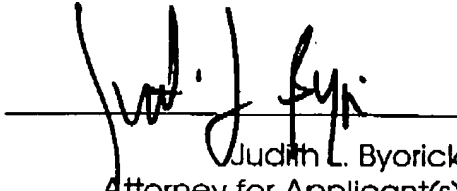
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for examination. Claims reading thereon are 1 to 32.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, he is hereby authorized to call Applicant(s) attorney, Judith L. Byorick, at Telephone Number (585) 423-4564, Rochester, New York.

Respectfully submitted,



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